(a) whether it is a fact that Rashtriya Kendriya Vidyalaya Adhyapak Sangh has threatened to launch an all India agitation by employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas in April, 1997 if their demands are not accepted;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Their demands inter-alia include Special Pay Board for Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan employees, redesignation of Post Graduate Teachers as lecturers, accomodation and C.G.H.S. facilities to all teachers, introduction of additional subjects at + 2 level, Trained Graduate Teacher Scale to Music Teachers, modification in the norms for sanction of staff.

These demands are considered by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in accordance with relevant rules and procedure.

Asia Europe Meeting

1511. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mr. John Major, Prime Minister of U.K. while addressing the CII Partnership Summit in Calcutta during January last, gave the assurance that the U.K. will forcefully take up with the countries of Europe and Asia the issue of India's inclusion in the Asia-Europe Summit dialogue in future;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the British Prime Minister in this regard so far;

(c) whether India's hope of becoming member in the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) forum looks uncertain as Asia Europe Meeting officials feel that time is not ripe to admit new members in the 26 country grouping as reported in "The Financial Express", New Delhi dated February 4, 1997; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) In his address to the CII Partnership Summit, Prime Minister Major said that Britain has been arguing forcefully with its partners in Europe and Asia for India's inclusion in ASEM and would continue to do so. It is understood that, at the meeting of ASEM Foreign Ministers in Singapore on February 14, the British Foreign Secretary was among those who argued for an expansion of ASEM's membership to include India.

(c) It is understood that no decision was taken at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting on expansion of the membership; the question is to be studied further by senior officials.

(d) The position of the Government of India, reiterated more than once to members of ASEM, is that it is illogical to have a meeting between Asia and Europe without the participation of India.

Performance of Coast Guard

1512. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether performance of coast guard organisation has been reviewed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken to upgrade/ strengthen/modernise coast guard organisation to perform the challenging task;

(d) the details of fund required/spent by the organisation during the last three years and the funds approved for ongoing/new projects during the current year;

(e) the details of progress achieved on new projects; and

(f) the reason for delay in clearing the proposals of coast guard organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The Coast Guard has been performing its statutory functions satisfactorily. However, necessary initiatives are taken from time to time to update, strengthen and modernise the Coast Guard Organisation. The Organisation is also being strengthened by inducting forces as are considered necessary.

(d) Position is as follows :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Estimates	Expenditure
1993-94	215.00	213.00
1994-95	230.00	229.00
1995-96	252.00	254.00
1996-97	253.97*	not yet available

*including Rs. 150 crores approved for ongoing/new projects.

(e) and (f) One Fast Patrol Vessel (EPV) is scheduled to be commissioned shortly, two more are due for delivery within the next fiscal year. Three Dorniers and three Chetak Helicopters have been commisssioned. Three more Dorniers are expected before 31st March, 1997. For two rescue Helicopters, Letter of Intent has been placed on HAL and these are likely to be delivered during 1998. There is no undue delay in clearing of any Coast Guard proposals.

Ship Building in the Country

1513. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote ship building in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(c) the proposals received by the ship owner association in that regard;

(d) whether the Government have approved those proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In order to promote Indian Shipbuilding Industry, a revised Pricing Policy for construction of ocean-going vessels in Indian Public Sector Shipyards was introduced in September, 1993 for a period of two years. the Policy, inter alia, envisaged availability of Shipbuilding subsidy of 30% over and above the basic price (20% payable by the Government and 10% by the shipowner) and availability of interest differential subsidy on loan of 9% upto an extent of 80% of the cost of the ship.

No. proposal has been received by the Ministry from the Shipowners' Association in this regard. However, a proposal has been received from the Indian Shipbuilders' Association (ISBA) requesting extension of subsidy scheme which lapsed in September, 1995 and also to include export orders. Their request has been processed and inter-Ministerial consultations are underway.

Irrigation System

1514. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide legal support to the farmers in the management of the irrigation system to ensure better operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a national conference on irrigation has been held in New Delhi recently;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations and the outcome of the conference; and

(e) the follow-up action proposed to be taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Water being a State subject, necessary legal support has to be provided by State Governments through enactments.

(b) Ministry of Water Resources have advised the State Governments to make necessary enabling provisions in their existing Acts for formation of Water Users' Associations. Preparation of a Model Amendment Bill has been taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources through a Consultant in order to provide guidelines to State Governments for facilitating amendments in the existing Acts.

(c) A National Conference on Participatory Irrigation Management was held during January, 20-22, 1997 at New Delhi.

(d) The recommendations are attached as Statement.

(e) Action on the recommendations is being pursued. However, actions for the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management have been taken as under :

Water being a State subject the role of Union Ministry of Water Resources is that of facilitator whereas the implementation of Participatory Irigation Management has to be done by the State Governments. National Water Policy of 1987 recommended that farmers should be progressively involved in the management of irrigation system. Under Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme, necessary guidelines have been issued to participating States to involve farmers at minor (canal) level through formation of Water Users' Associations. Management subsidy is provided to these Associations under the Programme. A series of Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management have been held at National, State and Project levels to create mass awareness among officials and farmers. Training courses on participatory process are being conducted for officers and farmers. States have been advised to form High Level Working Groups to consider policy issues and guidelines on participatory irrigation management. Action has been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare manuals in four regional languages. Work of preparing drafts of model amendments to irrigation acts in order to give legal status to farmers' organisations is in progress. The Ministry of Water Resources has been vigorously disseminating information about Participatory Irrigation Management in various States and other countries to the State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Statement

Recommendations of the National Conference on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) held at New Delhi from 20th-2nd January, 1997.

Government of India

1. Need for a clear statement by Government of India for introducing Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) through a Government Resolution.
2. Setting up of a National Working Group consisting of government officials, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations and farmers to provide guidelines for the implementation of PIM and helping in drafting the policy resolutions.

State Level

1. Need for setting up of High Level Working Groups in the States with similar composition as that of National Working Group to provide policy guidelines as well as help in drafting the State Government's resolutions for adoption of PIM as a policy instrument.